Wages rise 0.8% for the quarter and 3.4% over the year

Media Release

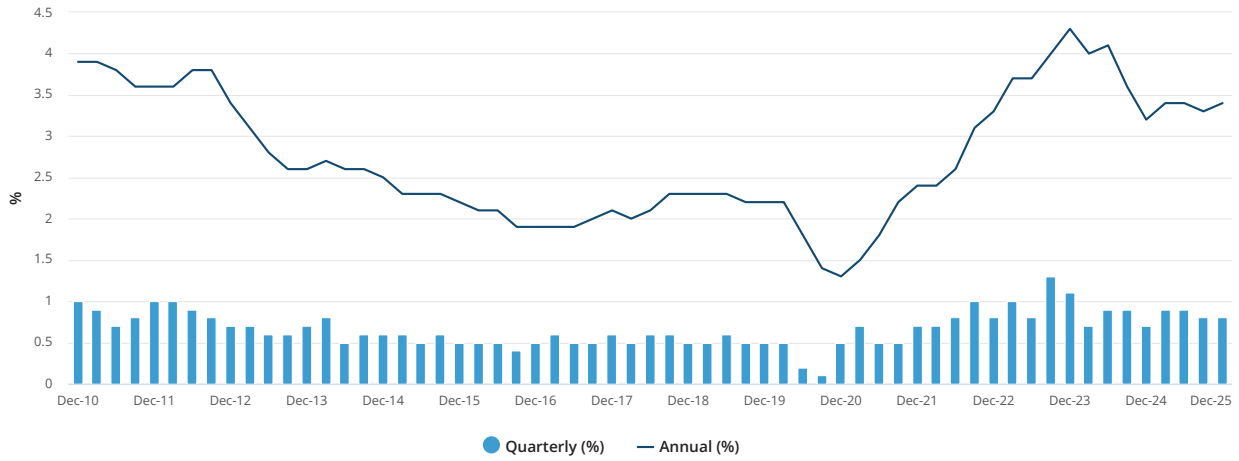
Released 18/02/2026

Source:
Wage Price Index, Australia, December 2025 (/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/dec-2025)

The Wage Price Index (WPI) rose 0.8 per cent in the December quarter 2025 and 3.4 per cent annually, according to seasonally adjusted data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Michelle Marquardt, ABS head of prices statistics, said: 'Quarterly wage growth of 0.8 per cent was in line with the September quarter 2025. Annual growth in wages was 3.4 per cent up from 3.3 per cent in September quarter 2025.'

All sector WPI, quarterly and annual movement (%), seasonally adjusted (a)



a. See Interpretation of index numbers, Percentage change and rounding on the Methodology (https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/wage-price-index-australia-methodology/dec-2025#interpretation-of-index-numbers) page.

Across both the private and public sector, wages rose 0.8 per cent.

On an annual basis, public sector wages grew at a faster pace than the private sector for the fourth consecutive quarter.

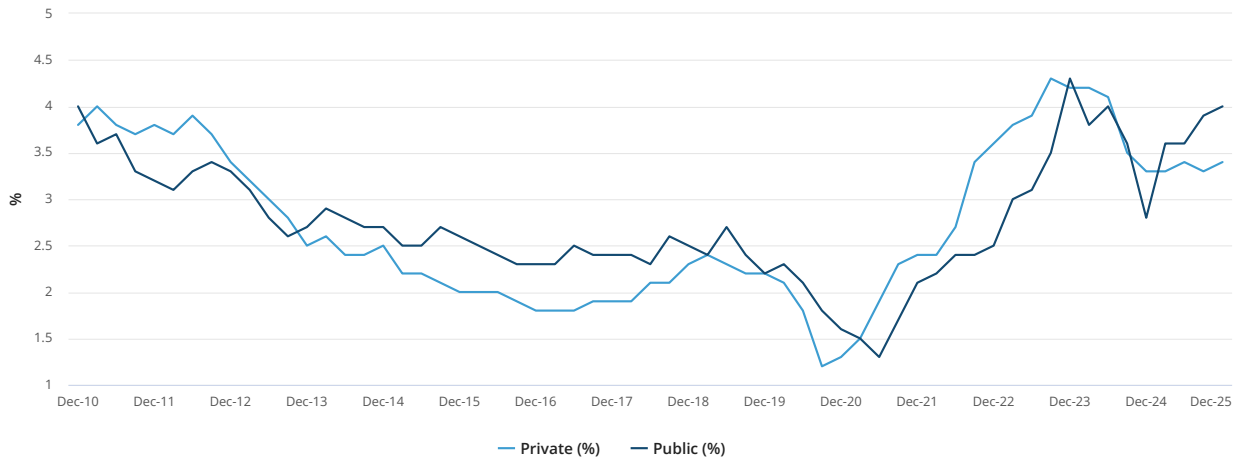
Annual public sector wage growth was 4.0 per cent in the year to December 2025, higher than the 2.8 per cent at the same time last year.

Private sector wages rose 3.4 per cent over the same period. This was higher than the 3.3 per cent growth recorded in the year to December 2024.

‘Strong growth in public sector wages for 2025 was due to new state public sector agreements that delivered multiple pay rises over the course of the year,’ said Ms Marquardt.

‘Multiple pay rises occurred when agreements included backdated increases that took effect soon after the agreement was finalised, and a further scheduled rise was received later in the year.’

Annual wage growth by sector, seasonally adjusted (a)



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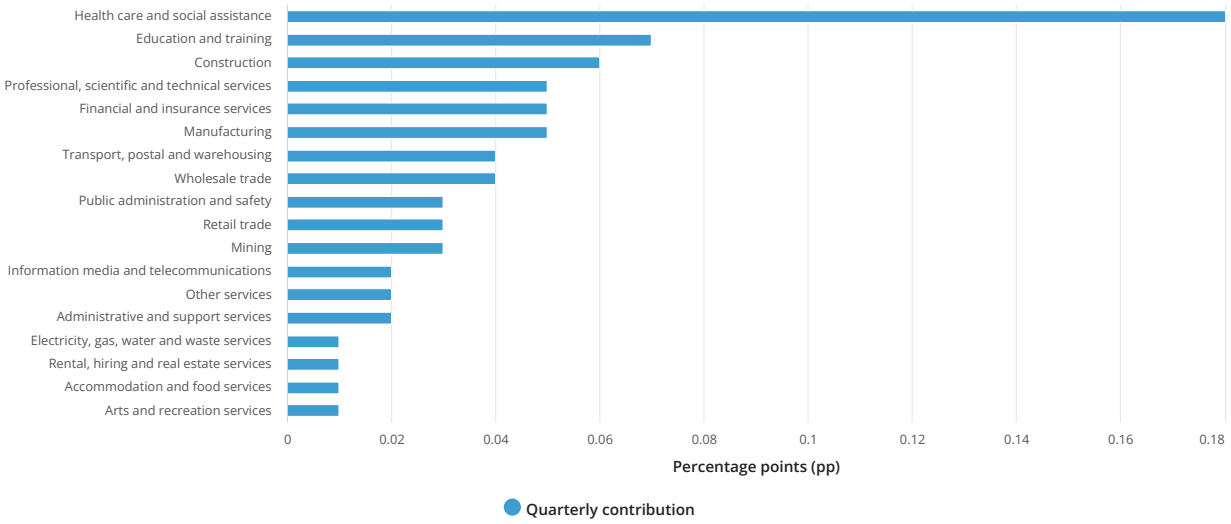
The Healthcare and social assistance industry was the main contributor to wages growth for the private and public sector this quarter.

Two major Commonwealth funded initiatives in aged care (https://www.health.gov.au/topics/aged-care-workforce/what-were-doing/better-and-fairer-wages) and early childhood care and education (https://www.fairwork.gov.au/newsroom/news/early-childhood-education-and-care-worker-retention-payment) saw rises paid in the private sector for this industry. Growth in the public sector was largely related to scheduled enterprise agreement rises paid to frontline health care workers across New South Wales.

Quarterly contribution - industries



See our other insights and supporting graphs in our Wage Price Index, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/latest-release) , December quarter 2025 publication.

Media notes

- Please attribute the 'Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)' when using our data.
- All figures in this release are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise specified.
- December quarter 2025 Wage Price Index data captures wages for the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month (November) of the quarter.
- The WPI is designed to measure the change over time in the price of wages and salaries (i.e. a pure price change, unaffected by the changes in the quality or quantity of work performed or the composition of the workforce).
- To learn more about different measures of wages change, their purpose and how to use them, see our Earnings guide (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide) . It provides summary information on our various earnings measures including the Wage Price Index.
- For any media requests, email media@abs.gov.au (mailto:media@abs.gov.au) or call 1300 175 070 (9am–5pm Canberra time) with your questions and deadline.
- Explore our Data Crash Course (https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Femail.streem.com.au%2Fc%2FeJxMUU1zmzAQ_TVwg9HH6oMDBxKXDEldN20dO7lkJCTFsrFxEdhDf30Hkszksiu99_ZJ89bkoDJnYptjwYUALgSJdzkAk1oLrphwVhquCcclJJGCE6wcjn3OM2ZUXTOLKYJXLF0NUIIsEZU8AhS8sQf_Nzkq39guJJJryZwAmSW877JdOhFxk-_6_hwiWkSkjEiphoBwGpSzjT8dQnru2t7WvW9PaTv0Tdse0ro9TlpaDl0T0cX7PGGTA5s8GCnHduiHVNv50ljyQH_-sPs1TLIy-KktxufnV_W4TUSzGZ-u0keEG9WriC4QiwgTt4jMbWmNVxFhgJQO6Vt7SdUwEwQLnhmMtZQEOGDjiEbSWKi1ZgbMLKJQGy2oqMEpqAnOFAUpVU2MINhJ-f7Sl8pphihhHIRAFDDFMMPr0-HUXk_z-c-mPOu7l6CpkXa8L_X2Btk13tV3B786_RrNZh2q5tmvfHX9vi-G5aK4Lm-rUDWFX_n7rdrAv6WvQnUoV9W-9bPfzJt1tW9

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- Information on how the ABS will release market sensitive releases during a website or API outage (https://www.abs.gov.au/welcome-new-abs-website#market-sensitive-releases-during-a-website-or-api-outage).